

I CLAIM:

1. In an information stream associated with deliverable published software from a software publisher to a customer, an arrangement for software protection comprising a personalization, said personalization incorporated into the information stream by the software publisher and containing pre-existing personal information fundamentally related to the customer.

2. The arrangement as in claim 1, wherein the deliverable published software is intended to execute on a plurality of computers, and wherein said personalization is not fundamentally related to any specific computer of the plurality.

3. The arrangement as in claim 1, wherein the deliverable published software is intended to execute on a plurality of computers, each of the plurality of computers having a configuration, and wherein said personalization is not fundamentally related to any specific configuration.

4. The arrangement as in claim 1, wherein the deliverable published software is intended to execute on computers belonging to a class of computer, and wherein the deliverable published software executes in substantially identical functional form on substantially all computers of the class of computer.

5. The arrangement as in claim 1, wherein said personalization is not associated with, and does activate, any usage restriction on the deliverable published software.

6. The arrangement as in claim 1, wherein said personalization does not have a fixed address within the information stream.

7. The arrangement as in claim 1, wherein said personalization does not have a fixed extent within the information stream.

8. The arrangement as in claim 1, wherein said personalization is authenticated.

5 9. The arrangement as in claim 8, wherein said personalization is in an encrypted form within the information stream.

10. The arrangement as in claim 1, wherein the information stream contains at least one executable module operative to displaying at least part of said personalization.

10 11. The arrangement as in claim 1, wherein the information stream contains at least one executable module, and wherein said personalization is contained within said at least one executable module.

12. The arrangement as in claim 1, further comprising a personalization validation module operative to validating a personalization.

15 13. The arrangement as in claim 12, wherein said personalization verification module is further operative to validating an output file.

14. The arrangement as in claim 12, wherein the information stream contains at least one executable module, and wherein said personalization verification module is further operative to validating said at least one executable module.

20 15. The arrangement as in claim 12, wherein said personalization validation module is further operative, upon not detecting a valid personalization, to initiate an action included in the group containing:

- (a) program termination;
- (b) operating the software in a demonstration mode; and
- (c) operating the software in a restricted mode.

16. The arrangement as in claim 1, wherein the information stream
 5 contains at least one executable module having an authentication, and wherein said
 executable module executes in a secure computer environment operative to validating
 said authentication.

17. The arrangement as in claim 1, wherein at least part of the deliverable
 published software is written in the Java language.

10 18. The arrangement as in claim 17, wherein at least part of the deliverable
 published software is contained in a Java archive.

19. The arrangement as in claim 18, wherein said Java archive is signed
 with an archive signature.

20. The arrangement as in claim 16, wherein said secure computer
 15 environment is operative to executing Java software.

21. The arrangement as in claim 12, wherein said personalization is in an
 encrypted form within the information stream, and wherein said personalization
 validation module is further operative to decrypting said encrypted form.

22. The arrangement as in claim 21, wherein said encrypted form is
 20 according to a public key cryptosystem having a public key, and wherein said
 personalization validation module has access to said public key.

23. The arrangement as in claim 1, wherein the information stream contains at least one executable module operative to writing an output file containing information derived from said personalization.

24. A method for protecting published software ordered by a customer, the
5 method comprising the steps of:

- (a) obtaining pre-existing personal information fundamentally related to the customer;
- (b) producing, from said pre-existing personal information fundamentally related to the customer, a personal information module; and
- 10 (c) producing an executable module deriving at least in part from said personal information module and incorporating said pre-existing personal information fundamentally related to the customer.

25. The method as in claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

- (d) authenticating said personal information module; and
- 15 (e) providing a personalization validation module, from which derives at least in part said executable module.

26. The method as in claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

- (d) incorporating said executable module within a Java archive; and
- (e) authenticating said Java archive with an archive signature.

20 27. The method as in claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

- (f) incorporating said executable module within a Java archive; and
- (g) authenticating said Java archive with an archive signature.

28. A system for protecting published software ordered by a customer, the system comprising:

- (a) a personal information collector for collecting pre-existing personal information fundamentally related to the customer;
- 5 (b) a personalization compiler, for producing, from said pre-existing personal information fundamentally related to the customer, a personalization module; and
- (c) an executable module builder, for producing deliverable published software containing said pre-existing personal information
10 fundamentally related to the customer and derived at least in part from said personalization module.